1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

In Canton, in addition to similar celebrations, the Municipal "Children's Palace" was formally opened on June 1, 1952. As a "cultural center" for the children, the "palace" was reported to have a capacity of 1, 500, and three departments -- political education, artistic education, and a department of science -- as well as a children's library.[36]

A three-year progress report on child welfare was made by the Central-South Democratic Women's Federation in 1952. Incomplete statistics showed that 70 creches to care for 2, 000 children had been established in the urban districts, and that temporary organizations in the rural areas helped to care for 30, 000 children during the busy farm seasons. In the municipality of Wuhan before the Communist "liberation" in May 1949, the report stated, there had been only one crêche caring for 35 children, but in mid-1952 the number of creches had increased to 28, caring for 1, 000 children. The report claimed such achievements as a lower death rate for both infants and mothers and better health provisions for women and children. (See chapter on Health and Sanitation.) However, it also pointed out that in the many phases of child welfare, there was much need for improvement, especially in raising the standard of education for welfare workers.[37]

The first conference of the workers in women's and children's welfare was convened October 3-12,

36. South China Daily, June 1, 1952, p. 1.

37. Yangtze Daily, June 1, 1952, p. 3.

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

incomplete statistics showed that the private channel of the book distributing network included 448 privately-owned bookstores as well as sidewalk book stalls, which numbered 586 in Wuhan alone.[20]

To make publications intended for the masses still more conveniently accessible to the popular reader, the Communist regime has reportedly established an impressive number of "cultural palaces" (community centers) and reading rooms in cities, towns, and villages. For instance, in Kwangsi Province there are 120 "large cultural palaces," 186 "small cultural places," and 973 reading rooms.[21]

Information on other media of propaganda and public information are by no means less important than the press, radio, the stage, and books and other publications. They have been omitted simply because there is less justification for dealing with them on a regional basis. Most if not all are systematically controlled and utilized by the Communists, and the propaganda they communicate and the information on public affairs they provide are similar to those communicated through the media we have discussed.

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20. Ibid.

21. The Sixth Department of the Central Committee of the Kuomintang, Kwangsi Fei-ch'ing [Communist Rule in Kwangsi], Taipei, Taiwan, 1955, p. 29.